

Amendments to the Claims:

The following will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A plasmid containing a tightly regulated promoter, wherein said promoter is operatively linked to an isolated and purified DNA sequence that encodes a peptidoglycan-associated lipoprotein (recombinant PAL) of gram-negative bacteria, wherein the promoter is an arabinose inducible promoter~~the recombinant PAL, under the control of said tightly regulated promoter, is expressed in lipidated form and in yields that are higher than those expressed when the recombinant PAL is under the control of a leaky regulated promoter.~~

Claim 2. (Original) The plasmid of Claim 1 wherein the PAL is the P6 protein of *Haemophilus influenzae* (*H. influenzae*).

Claim 3 (Canceled)

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The plasmid of Claim [[4]]1 wherein the plasmid is designated pPX4020.

Claim 6 (Canceled)

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Original) A bacterial host cell transformed, transduced or transfected with the plasmid of Claim 1.

Claims 9-17 (Cancelled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A plasmid containing a tightly regulated promoter ~~selected from the group consisting of an arabinose inducible promoter and a T7 promoter~~, wherein said ~~tightly-regulated~~ T7 promoter is operatively linked to an isolated and purified DNA sequence that encodes the P6 protein of *H. influenzae* (recombinant P6), ~~wherein the recombinant P6, under the control of said tightly-regulated promoter, is expressed in lipidated form and in yields that are higher than those expressed when the recombinant P6 is under the control of a leaky regulated promoter.~~

Claim 19 (Canceled)

Claim 20 (Currently Amended) The plasmid of Claim 18 wherein the ~~tightly regulated promoter is a T7 promoter and the~~ plasmid is designated pPX4019.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A bacterial host cell transformed, transduced or transfected with the plasmid of Claim 18.

Claim 22 (Canceled)